



NORTH-HOLLAND

## Cycle Indices of Linear, Affine, and Projective Groups

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### ABSTRACT

The Pólya cycle indices for the natural actions of the general linear groups and affine groups (on a vector space) and for the projective linear groups (on a projective space) over a finite field are computed. Finally it is demonstrated how to enumerate isometry classes of linear codes by using these cycle indices. © 1997 Elsevier Science Inc.

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### 1. PRELIMINARIES

This section contains all the basic notions and facts about finite group actions necessary for the following. For more details the reader is referred to the book [11], from which we take the notation.

Let  $G$  be a multiplicative group and  $X$  a nonempty set. An *action* of  $G$  on  $X$  from the left is denoted by  ${}_G X$ , and  $X$  is called a  $G$ -set. If both the group  $G$  and the set  $X$  are finite, then  ${}_G X$  is called a *finite group action*. It

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induces a group homomorphism  $\phi$  from  $G$  into the *symmetric group*  $S_X$  on  $X$ :

$$\phi : G \rightarrow S_X, \quad g \mapsto \phi(g),$$

where  $\phi(g)x = gx$  for all  $x \in X$ . The *orbit* of  $x$  will be indicated by  $G(x)$ , the *stabilizer* of  $x$  by  $G_x$ . The set of all  $G$ -orbits will be denoted by

$$G \setminus X := \{G(x) \mid x \in X\}.$$

Let  $G$  be a permutation group of  $X$  (if necessary take the homomorphic image of  $G$  under  $\phi : G \rightarrow S_X$ ). The *cycle index* of  $G$  acting on  $X$  is the following polynomial  $Z(G, X)$  in the indeterminates  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{|X|}$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ :

$$Z(G, X) := \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \prod_{i=1}^{|X|} x_i^{a_i(g)},$$

where  $(a_1(g), \dots, a_{|X|}(g))$  is the cycle type of the permutation  $g \in G$ . This means  $g$  decomposes into  $a_i(g)$  disjoint cycles of length  $i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, |X|$ . All elements of a conjugacy class have the same cycle type, so the cycle index can be rephrased in the following way:

$$Z(G, X) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{C \in \mathcal{C}} |C| \prod_{i=1}^{|X|} x_i^{a_i(g_C)}, \quad (1)$$

where  $\mathcal{C}$  is the set of all conjugacy classes  $C$  of  $G$  with representatives  $g_C \in C$ .

The finite field of  $q$  elements will be denoted by  $F_q$ ;  $q$  is assumed to be a power of the prime  $p$ , the *characteristic* of  $F_q$ ; and the multiplicative group of  $F_q$  will be indicated by  $F_q^*$ . The set of all regular  $n \times n$  matrices over  $F_q$  will be denoted by  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$ , which is the *general linear group*. The *affine group*

$$\text{Aff}(n, F_q) := \{(A, b) \mid A \in \text{GL}(n, F_q), b \in F_q^n\}$$

is the semidirect product of  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$  and  $F_q^n$  with the following multiplication:

$$(A_1, b_1)(A_2, b_2) = (A_1 A_2, b_1 + A_1 b_2).$$

The group  $F_q^*$  acts on the vector space  $F_q^n$  by scalar multiplication:

$$F_q^* \times F_q^n \rightarrow F_q^n, \quad (\alpha, v) \mapsto \alpha v.$$

The orbit  $F_q^*(v)$ ,  $v \neq 0$ , is a point in the *projective space*  $\text{PG}(n-1, F_q) := F_q^* \setminus (F_q^n \setminus \{0\})$ . Furthermore  $F_q^*$  acts on  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$  by

$$F_q^* \times \text{GL}(n, F_q) \rightarrow \text{GL}(n, F_q), \quad (\alpha, A) \mapsto \alpha A.$$

The set  $F_q^* \setminus \text{GL}(n, F_q)$  of all orbits is the *projective linear group*  $\text{PGL}(n, F_q)$ . In the present paper we will show how to compute the cycle indices for the natural actions of the linear, affine, and projective groups. These actions are

$$\text{GL}(n, F_q) \times F_q^n \rightarrow F_q^n, \quad (A, v) \mapsto Av,$$

$$\text{Aff}(n, F_q) \times F_q^n \rightarrow F_q^n, \quad ((A, b), v) \mapsto Av + b$$

and

$$\text{PGL}(n, F_q) \times \text{PG}(n-1, F_q) \rightarrow \text{PG}(n-1, F_q),$$

$$(F_q^*(A), F_q^*(v)) \mapsto F_q^*(Av).$$

The orders of these groups are

$$|\text{GL}(n, F_q)| = [q]_n := (q^n - 1)(q^n - q) \cdots (q^n - q^{n-1}),$$

$$|\text{Aff}(n, F_q)| = [q]_n q^n, \quad |\text{PGL}(n, F_q)| = \frac{[q]_n}{q-1}.$$

The idea for computing these cycle indices according to (1) is the following: First determine the conjugacy classes in  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$ , which can be done by using the theory of normal forms of matrices. Then determine the number of elements in these conjugacy classes, and for each class compute the cycle type of an arbitrary representative. In the case  $q = 2$  Slepian [16] and Harrison [7, 8] computed the cycle indices of  $\text{GL}(n, F_2)$  and  $\text{Aff}(n, F_2)$ . They applied them for the enumeration of isometry classes of linear  $(n, k)$  codes over  $F_2$  and for the classification of switching functions. These two

authors referred to Elspas [2], who determined the cycle type of  $A \in \text{GL}(n, F_p)$ , where  $p$  is a prime.

In the next section a short introduction into the theory of normal forms of linear operators in vector spaces over arbitrary fields is given. Since this theory can be found in many textbooks of algebra, we only present some definitions and final results. In the case of finite fields the size of these conjugacy classes can be evaluated using a formula of Kung [12], which goes back to a formula of Green [6].

## 2. THE CLASSICAL NORMAL FORM OF A LINEAR OPERATOR

In this section  $K$  denotes an arbitrary field,  $V$  is an  $n$ -dimensional vector space over  $K$ , and  $A$  is a linear operator on  $V$ . A polynomial  $\varphi(x) \in K[x]$  is called an *annihilating polynomial* of  $v \in V$  if and only if  $\varphi(A)v = 0$ . In order to understand what is meant by  $\varphi(A)$ , let  $\Phi_A$  be the ring homomorphism  $\Phi_A: K[x] \rightarrow \text{End}(V)$  defined by  $x \mapsto A$ , and  $a \mapsto a \text{id}_V$  for all  $a \in K$ . Then the image of  $\varphi(x) := \sum_{i=0}^d a_i x^i$  under  $\Phi_A$  is given by

$$\varphi(A) := \Phi_A(\varphi(x)) = \sum_{i=0}^d a_i A^i, \quad \text{where } A^0 = \text{id}_V.$$

Furthermore  $K[A] := \{\varphi(A) \mid \varphi \in K[x]\}$  is a subring of  $\text{End}(V)$ , and  $V$  is a  $K[A]$ -module with the following multiplication:

$$K[A] \times V \rightarrow V, \quad (\varphi(A), v) \mapsto \varphi(A)v.$$

In the same way, a polynomial  $\varphi(x) \in K[x]$  is called an *annihilating polynomial* of  $V$  if and only if  $\varphi(x)$  is an annihilating polynomial of each  $v \in V$ , and such a polynomial of minimal degree, which is monic as well, is called the *minimal polynomial* of  $V$ . If the minimal polynomial  $\varphi(x)$  of  $V$  can be written as

$$\varphi(x) = \prod_{i=1}^s \varphi_i(x)^{c_i},$$

where  $\varphi_i(x)$  are pairwise distinct, monic, irreducible polynomials over  $K$ , then the *primary decomposition* of  $V$  yields a representation of  $V$  as a direct sum of invariant subspaces  $U_i$ , such that  $\varphi_i(x)^{c_i}$  is the minimal polynomial of  $U_i$ . Each of these invariant subspaces  $U_i$  is a direct sum of cyclic subspaces

$W_{i,j}$ , such that the minimal polynomial of  $W_{i,r(i)}$  is  $\varphi_i(x)^{c_i}$  and the minimal polynomial of  $W_{i,j}$  is a divisor of the minimal polynomial of  $W_{i,j+1}$  for  $j = 1, \dots, r(i) - 1$ :

$$V = \bigoplus_{i=1}^s U_i \quad \text{and} \quad U_i = \bigoplus_{j=1}^{r(i)} W_{i,j}.$$

Let  $U$  be a cyclic subspace of dimension  $d$  with basis  $(v, Av, \dots, A^{d-1}v)$  and minimal polynomial  $\varphi(x) := \sum_{i=0}^d a_i x^i$ ,  $a_d = 1$ . Then the restriction of  $A$  to  $U$  can be represented as the *companion matrix*  $C(\varphi)$  of  $\varphi(x)$ , which is given by

$$C(\varphi) := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & -a_0 \\ 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & -a_1 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & -a_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & 0 & -a_{d-2} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & -a_{d-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

In the case that  $U$  is a cyclic subspace of  $V$  of dimension  $kd$  with minimal polynomial  $\varphi(x)^k$ , there is a basis of  $U$  such that the restriction of  $A$  to  $U$  can be represented as the *hypercompanion matrix*  $H(\varphi^k)$  of  $\varphi(x)^k$ , which is given by

$$H(\varphi^k) := \left( \begin{array}{cccccc} C(\varphi) & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ E_{1d} & C(\varphi) & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & E_{1d} & C(\varphi) & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & C(\varphi) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & E_{1d} & C(\varphi) \end{array} \right) \Bigg\} k \text{ times},$$

where

$$E_{1d} = (e_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq d} \text{ is given by } e_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (i, j) = (1, d), \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

The hypercompanion matrix  $H(\varphi^k)$  is a  $kd \times kd$  matrix, and in the case that  $k = 1$  it is the companion matrix  $C(\varphi)$ . If the vector space  $V$  with minimal polynomial

$$\varphi(x) = \prod_{i=1}^s \varphi_i(x)^{c_i}$$

decomposes into a direct sum of  $\lambda_j^{(i)}$  cyclic subspaces with minimal polynomial  $\varphi_i(x)^j$  (for  $1 \leq j \leq c_i$  and for  $1 \leq i \leq s$ ), then the classical normal form of  $A$  is a block diagonal matrix

$$\text{diag}(D(\varphi_1, \lambda^{(1)}), \dots, D(\varphi_s, \lambda^{(s)})). \quad (2)$$

The matrices  $D(\varphi, \lambda)$  are again block diagonal matrices defined by

$$D(\varphi, \lambda) = \text{diag}\left(\underbrace{C(\varphi), \dots, C(\varphi)}_{\lambda_1}, \underbrace{H(\varphi^2), \dots, H(\varphi^2)}_{\lambda_2}, \dots\right).$$

Then the characteristic polynomial of  $A$  is

$$\chi_A(x) = \prod_{i=1}^s \varphi_i(x)^{\gamma_i},$$

where  $\gamma_i = \sum_j j \lambda_j^{(i)}$ . In other words,  $\lambda^{(i)}$  is a cycle type of  $\gamma_i$ , which will be indicated as  $\lambda^{(i)} \vdash \gamma_i$ . In the special case that  $K$  is a finite field  $F_q$ , Kung [12] determined the size of a conjugacy class in  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$  by the following formula: Let  $\varphi(x) \in F_q[x]$  be a monic, irreducible polynomial of degree  $d$ , and let  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots)$  be a cycle type of  $\gamma$ . The size of the centralizer of  $D(\varphi, \lambda)$  in  $\text{GL}(\gamma d, F_q)$  is

$$b(d, \lambda) := \prod_{i=1}^{\gamma} \prod_{j=1}^{\lambda_i} (q^{d\mu_i} - q^{d(\mu_i-j)}), \quad (3)$$

where

$$\mu_i := \sum_{k=1}^i k \lambda_k + \sum_{k=i+1}^{\gamma} i \lambda_k.$$

Note that this number only depends on the degree of the polynomial. The size of the conjugacy class of a matrix given by (2), where the  $\varphi_i(x)$  are polynomials of degree  $d_i$ , is given by

$$\frac{[q]_n}{\prod_{i=1}^s b(d_i, \lambda^{(i)})}.$$

### 3. THE CYCLE INDEX OF $GL(n, F_q)$

In [9] the following definition of a product operator for two polynomials  $A$  and  $B$  in indeterminates  $x_1, x_2, \dots$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  is given. Let

$$A(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{(j)} a_{(j)} \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{j_i},$$

$$B(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) = \sum_{(k)} b_{(k)} \prod_{i=1}^m x_i^{k_i};$$

then

$$A(x_1, \dots, x_n) \times B(x_1, \dots, x_m) := \sum_{(j)} \sum_{(k)} a_{(j)} b_{(k)} \left( \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{j_i} \right) \times \left( \prod_{i=1}^m x_i^{k_i} \right),$$

where

$$\left( \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{j_i} \right) \times \left( \prod_{i=1}^m x_i^{k_i} \right) := \prod_{i=1}^n \prod_{l=1}^m (x_i^{j_i} \times x_l^{k_l})$$

and

$$x_i^{j_i} \times x_l^{k_l} := x_{\text{lcm}(i, l)}^{j_i k_l \gcd(i, l)}. \quad (4)$$

The  $k$ th power of  $A$  according to this product will be indicated as

$$A(x_1, \dots, x_n)^{\times k}.$$

It was Pólya [15] who first realized that the cycle index of the induced action

$$(G \times H) \times (X \times Y) \rightarrow X \times Y, \quad ((g, h), (x, y)) \mapsto (gx, hy)$$

of the direct product of two group actions  ${}_G X$  and  ${}_H Y$  can be expressed as

$$Z(G \times H, X \times Y) = Z(G, X) \times Z(H, Y).$$

A matrix  $A \in \text{GL}(n, F_q)$  given in normal form is a block diagonal matrix of companion and hypercompanion matrices of monic, irreducible polynomials over  $F_q$ . The natural action of  $A$  given by (2), where  $\lambda^{(i)}$  is a cycle type of  $\gamma_i$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^s \gamma_i = n$ , can be expressed as the direct product  $\times_{i=1}^s \times_{j=1}^{\gamma_i} \times_{k=1}^{\lambda_j^{(i)}} H(\varphi_i^j)$  acting on  $\times_{i=1}^s \times_{j=1}^{\gamma_i} \times_{k=1}^{\lambda_j^{(i)}} F_q^{jd_i}$ . For that reason we only have to know the cycle types of companion and hypercompanion matrices of monic, irreducible polynomials over  $F_q$ . (Applying the product operator of (4) yields the cycle type of the matrix  $A$ .) It is important to realize that the cycle type of a hypercompanion matrix of a monic, irreducible polynomial  $\varphi(x) \in F_q[x]$  can be computed from its exponent  $\exp(\varphi)$ .

In [14] the *period*, the *order* or the *exponent* of a polynomial  $\varphi(x) \in F_q[x]$ ,  $\varphi(0) \neq 0$ , is defined to be the least positive integer  $e$  such that  $\varphi(x)$  is a divisor of  $x^e - 1$ . We will need the following facts about the exponent: Let  $\varphi(x) \in F_q[x]$  be a monic, irreducible polynomial of degree  $d$  over  $F_q$ . If  $\varphi(x)$  can be expressed as  $\varphi(x) = \prod_{i=1}^d (x - \alpha_i)$ , where the  $\alpha_i$  are distinct elements in  $F_{q^d}$ , then

$$\exp(\varphi) = \min\{t \in \mathbb{N} \mid \alpha_i^t = 1\}.$$

The exponent of  $\varphi(x)$  is a divisor of  $q^d - 1$ , but it is not a divisor of  $q^r - 1$  for any  $1 \leq r < d$ . So the set  $E(d, q)$  of all possible exponents of monic, irreducible polynomials of degree  $d$  over  $F_q$  can be computed as

$$E(d, q) = \{e \mid e \mid q^d - 1 \text{ and } e \nmid q^r - 1 \text{ for } 1 \leq r < d\}.$$

In the case  $d = e = 1$  there is exactly one monic, irreducible polynomial of degree  $d$  and of exponent  $e$  such that  $\varphi(0) \neq 0$ , namely  $\varphi(x) = x - 1$ . [Actually, when extending the definition of exponents of polynomials for polynomials with  $\varphi(0) = 0$ , there is another polynomial  $\varphi(x) = x$  of degree 1 and of exponent 1.] Otherwise, if  $e$  is a divisor of  $q^d - 1$  and  $e$  does not divide  $q^r - 1$  for  $1 \leq r < d$ , then there are  $\phi(e)/d$  monic, irreducible polynomials of degree  $d$  and of exponent  $e$  in  $F_q[x]$ , where  $\phi$  is the Euler  $\phi$ -function. For  $e \in E(d, q)$  we define

$$\nu(d, e) := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } e = d = 1, \\ \phi(e)/d & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

The exponent of the power  $\varphi(x)^k$  for an integer  $k \geq 1$  is given by  $\exp(\varphi) p^t$ , where  $p$  is the characteristic of  $F_q$  and  $t := \min\{r \in \mathbb{N}_0 \mid p^r \geq k\}$ .



Let  $A$  be the hypercompanion matrix  $H(\varphi^k)$  of a monic, irreducible polynomial  $\varphi(x) \neq x$  of degree  $d$  and of exponent  $e$ . Then the cycle inventory of  $A$  acting on  $F_q^{kd}$  is

$$x_1 \prod_{i=1}^k x_{e_i}^{(q^{id} - q^{(i-1)d})/e_i},$$

where  $e_i = \exp(\varphi^i)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .

For computing the cycle index of  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$  we have to determine all normal forms (2) in  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$ , which can be done in the following way: It is well known [14] that there are

$$N_q(d) = \frac{1}{d} \sum_{t|d} \mu(t) q^{d/t}$$

monic, irreducible polynomials of degree  $d$  over  $F_q$ , where  $\mu$  is the classical Moebius function. Each monic, irreducible polynomial of degree  $\leq n$ , except the polynomial  $\varphi(x) = x$ , can occur as a divisor of the characteristic polynomial of some regular matrix  $A \in \text{GL}(n, F_q)$ . These  $t_n := \sum_{i=1}^n N_q(i) - 1$  polynomials will be labeled as  $\varphi_1(x), \varphi_2(x), \dots, \varphi_{t_n}(x)$ . Furthermore let  $d_i$  be the degree of  $\varphi_i(x)$ . First we have to find all solutions  $(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{t_n}) \in \mathbb{N}_0^{t_n}$  of

$$\sum_{i=1}^{t_n} \gamma_i d_i = n. \quad (5)$$

Then for each solution  $(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{t_n})$  the set of all cycle types of  $\gamma_i$ ,

$$\text{CT}(\gamma_i) := \{\lambda \mid \lambda \vdash \gamma_i\},$$

must be computed. Finally the representatives of the conjugacy classes of matrices  $A$  with characteristic polynomial

$$\chi_A(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{t_n} \varphi_i(x)^{\gamma_i}$$

are given as diagonal matrices

$$\text{diag}(D(\varphi_1, \lambda^{(1)}), \dots, D(\varphi_{t_n}, \lambda^{(t_n)})),$$

where

$$(\lambda^{(1)}, \dots, \lambda^{(t_n)}) \in \bigtimes_{i=1}^{t_n} \text{CT}(\gamma_i).$$

All these results can be collected in the following

**THEOREM 1.** *The cycle index  $Z(\text{GL}(n, F_q), F_q^n)$  can be computed as*

$$\frac{1}{[q]_n} \sum_{\gamma} \sum_{\lambda} \frac{[q]_n}{\prod_{i=1}^{\Lambda_n} b(d_i, \lambda^{(i)})} \bigtimes_{i=1}^{t_n} \bigtimes_{j=1}^{\gamma_i} \left( x_1 \prod_{k=1}^j x_{e_{ik}}^{a_{ik}} \right)^{\times \lambda_j^{(i)}},$$

where  $e_{ik}$  is the exponent of  $\varphi_i(x)^k$ . Furthermore  $a_{ik}$  is given as

$$a_{ik} = \frac{q^{kd_i} - q^{(k-1)d_i}}{e_{ik}}.$$

$[q]_n$  is the order of  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$  and  $b(d_i, \lambda^{(i)})$  is the size of the centralizer of  $D(\varphi_i, \lambda^{(i)})$  computed by (3). The first sum runs over all  $\gamma = (\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{t_n})$  which are solutions of (5). The second sum runs over all  $t_n$ -tuples  $\lambda = (\lambda^{(1)}, \dots, \lambda^{(t_n)}) \in \bigtimes_{i=1}^{t_n} \text{CT}(\gamma_i)$ .

Something should be said about possibilities for computing this cycle index without knowing the monic, irreducible polynomials of degree  $\leq n$  over  $F_q$ . As was pointed out above, the set  $E(d, q)$  of all exponents of monic, irreducible polynomials of degree  $d$  over  $F_q$  and for each  $e \in E(d, q)$  the number  $\nu(d, e)$  of these polynomials of exponent  $e$  can easily be computed. Careful scrutiny of the formula above leads to

$$\begin{aligned} & Z(\text{GL}(n, F_q), F_q^n) \\ &= \sum_{c \vdash n} \bigtimes_{d=1}^n \left( \sum_r \bigtimes_{e \in E(d, q)} \left( \sum_s \xi(\nu(d, e), s) \bigtimes_{j=1}^{\nu(d, e)} \left( \sum_{\lambda \vdash s_j} \frac{1}{b(d, \lambda)} z(d, e, \lambda) \right) \right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

where  $z(d, e, \lambda)$  is the cycle inventory of a matrix  $D(\varphi, \lambda)$ , with  $\varphi(x)$  a polynomial of degree  $d$  and exponent  $e$ . It can be computed as

$$\prod_{l=1}^{s_j} \left( x_1 \prod_{k=1}^l x_{e_k}^{a_k} \right)^{\lambda_l},$$

where  $e_k = ep^t$ ,  $p$  is the characteristic of  $F_q$ ,  $t$  is the least nonnegative integer such that  $p^t \geq k$ , and  $a_k$  is given by

$$a_k = \frac{q^{kd} - q^{(k-1)d}}{e_k}.$$

The numbers  $c_d$  of  $c = (c_1, \dots, c_n) \vdash n$  can each be interpreted as the sum of the multiplicities of all irreducible factors of degree  $d$  of the characteristic polynomial of a linear mapping. The second sum runs over all functions  $r$  from  $E(d, q)$  to  $\mathbb{N}_0$  which satisfy  $\sum_{e \in E(d, q)} r(e) = c_d$ . Then the sum of the multiplicities of all irreducible factors of degree  $d$  and exponent  $e$  is given by  $r(e)$ . The third sum must be taken over all cycle types  $s \vdash r(e)$  which satisfy  $\sum_j s_j \leq \nu(d, e)$ . Such a cycle type  $s$  defines types of partitions of the set  $\{1, \dots, r(e)\}$  into at most  $\nu(d, e)$  parts. The number of all combinations of  $\nu(d, e)$  different polynomials (of exponent  $e$  and of degree  $d$ ) forming a product of degree  $r(e)d$ , where exactly  $s_i$  polynomials occur with multiplicity  $i$ , can be computed as the multinomial coefficient

$$\xi(\nu(d, e), s) := \binom{\nu(d, e)}{s_1, s_2, \dots, \nu(d, e) - \sum_j s_j}.$$

#### 4. THE CYCLE INDEX OF THE AFFINE GROUP

The following lemma treats a more general concept for affine mappings over an  $R$ -module.

**LEMMA 2.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with 1. Then  $R^n$  is an  $R$ -module. Furthermore let  $A: R^n \rightarrow R^n$  be a regular linear mapping, and  $b \in R^n$ . If the mapping  $v \mapsto Av - v$  is bijective, then the mapping  $v \mapsto B(v) := Av + b$  has the same cycle type as  $v \mapsto Av$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $A - \text{id}$  is bijective,  $c := (A - \text{id})^{-1}(b)$  is well defined. The mapping  $T: R^n \rightarrow R^n$ ,  $v \mapsto v - c$  is a permutation of  $R^n$ , and  $(T^{-1} \circ B \circ T)(v) = A(v - c) + b + c = Av$ , so the two mappings  $v \mapsto B(v)$  and  $v \mapsto Av$  are conjugated in the symmetric group of  $R^n$ , which means that they have the same cycle type. ■

**THEOREM 3.** *Using the same notation as in the previous section, the cycle index of  $\text{Aff}(n, F_q)$  is given by*

$$\frac{1}{[q]_n q^n} \sum_{\gamma} \sum_{\lambda} \frac{[q]_n}{\prod_{i=1}^{t_n} b(d_i, \lambda^{(i)})} \prod_{i=1}^{t_n} \prod_{j=1}^{\gamma_i} u_{ij}^{x \lambda_j^{(i)}},$$

where

$$u_{ij} = \begin{cases} q^{jd_i} x_1 \prod_{k=1}^j x_{e_{ik}}^{a_{ik}} & \text{if } \varphi_i(x) \neq x - 1, \\ q^{j-1} x_1 \prod_{k=1}^j x_{e_{ik}}^{a_{ik}} + q^{j-1} (q - 1) x_{e_{i,j+1}}^{q^j / e_{i,j+1}} & \text{if } \varphi_i(x) = x - 1. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* The action of  $(A, b) \in \text{Aff}(n, F_q)$  on  $F_q^n$  can be considered as the direct product of actions  $(A', b')$  on subspaces of  $F_q^n$ , where  $A'$  is a hypercompanion matrix of a monic, irreducible polynomial  $\varphi_i(x) \in F_q[x]$ . If  $\varphi_i(x) \neq x - 1$ , then the mapping  $v \mapsto H(\varphi_i^j)v - v$  is a regular linear mapping. According to Lemma 2 the cycle type of  $(H(\varphi_i^j), b)$  does not depend on  $b$ , and it is equal to the cycle type of  $(H(\varphi_i^j), 0)$ .

Now let  $\varphi_i(x)$  be the polynomial  $x - 1$ ; then

$$A := H(\varphi_i^j) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & \ddots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \ddots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let

$$b = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_j \end{pmatrix} \in F_q^j, \quad b' = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \in F_q^j, \quad \text{and} \quad T(v) := v + \begin{pmatrix} -b_2 \\ -b_3 \\ \vdots \\ -b_j \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then  $T$  is a permutation of  $F_q^j$  and the two mappings  $v \mapsto Av + b$  and  $v \mapsto Av + b'$  are conjugated via  $T$  in  $S_{F_q^j}$  (i.e.,  $T^{-1}[AT(v) + b] = Av + b'$ ). For all  $b \in F_q^j$  with  $b_1 = 0$ —there are  $q^{j-1}$  vectors—the affine mappings  $(A, b)$  and  $(A, 0)$  are of the same cycle type. Finally, when  $b_1 \neq 0$ , we have to compute the cycle type of  $v \mapsto B(v) := Av + b'$ . For doing this, let  $A' := H(\varphi_i^{j+1}) \in \text{GL}(j+1, F_q)$ ; then

$$A' \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ B(v) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since  $b_1 \neq 0$ , all elements

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ v \end{pmatrix} \in F_q^{j+1}$$

have the same minimal polynomial  $\varphi_i^{j+1}(x)$  (with respect to  $A'$ ), so they all lie in  $q^j/e_{i,j+1}$  cycles of  $A'$  of length  $e_{i,j+1}$ , and the proof is completed. ■

## 5. THE CYCLE INDEX OF THE PROJECTIVE GROUP

Before computing the cycle index of  $\text{PGL}(n, F_q)$  acting on  $\text{PG}(n-1, F_q)$  we want to determine the so-called *subcycle index* of  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$  acting on  $F_q^n \setminus \{0\}$ . We start by defining the *subcycle type* of  $A \in \text{GL}(n, F_q)$ . The vector  $v \in F_q^n \setminus \{0\}$  lies in a *subcycle* of  $A$  of length  $s$  if and only if

$$s = \min \{t \in \mathbb{N} \mid \exists \alpha \in F_q^* \text{ such that } A^t v = \alpha v\}.$$

Let  $v$  be in a subcycle of  $A$  of length  $s$ , and  $A^s v = \alpha_0 v$ . Then  $\alpha_0$  is called the *integral element* of  $v$ . The set

$$\langle A \rangle(F_q^*(v)) = \{A^i \alpha v \mid i \in \mathbb{N}, \alpha \in F_q^*\}$$

can be written as a disjoint union of sets consisting of  $q-1$  elements each,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle A \rangle(F_q^*(v)) &= \bigcup_{i=0}^{s-1} A^i F_q^*(v) = \bigcup_{i=0}^{s-1} \{A^i \alpha v \mid \alpha \in F_q^*\} \\ &= \bigcup_{i=0}^{s-1} \{\alpha A^i v \mid \alpha \in F_q^*\} = \bigcup_{i=0}^{s-1} F_q^*(A^i v), \end{aligned}$$

so  $|\langle A \rangle(F_q^*(v))| = s(q-1)$ . All these  $s(q-1)$  elements can be identified with  $s$  elements in  $\text{PG}(n-1, F_q)$ , which form the cycle  $(F_q^*(v), \dots, F_q^*(A^{s-1}v))$  of length  $s$  of the projectivity  $F_q^*(A)$ . Furthermore, each  $v' \in \langle A \rangle(F_q^*(v))$  lies in a subcycle of  $A$  of length  $s$  with integral element  $\alpha_0$ . Using indeterminates with two indices—the first is the length of the subcycle, the second is the integral element—we identify the action of  $A$  on  $\langle A \rangle(F_q^*(v))$  with the subcycle expression  $x_{s, \alpha_0}^{q-1}$  of  $\langle A \rangle(F_q^*(v))$ . Since  $F_q^n \setminus \{0\}$  is a disjoint union of  $\langle A \rangle(F_q^*(v))$ , the subcycle type of  $A$  is defined to be the product of the subcycle expressions of all  $\langle A \rangle(F_q^*(v))$ . A term of the form  $x_{s, \alpha_0}^i$  in the subcycle type of  $A$  means that the cardinality of the set

$$\{v \in F_q^n \setminus \{0\} \mid s = \min\{t \in \mathbb{N} \mid \exists \alpha \in F_q^*, A^t v = \alpha v\} \text{ and } A^s v = \alpha_0 v\}$$

equals  $is$ . Thus the exponent  $i$  is a multiple of  $q-1$ . The subcycle index of  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$  on  $F_q^n \setminus \{0\}$  is the sum of the subcycle types of all  $A \in \text{GL}(n, F_q)$  divided by the order of  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$ . Then the cycle index of the projective group can be computed from the subcycle index by omitting the second index of all indeterminates and dividing the exponents by  $q-1$ . So the main task is the computation of the subcycle index of  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$ . Since all elements in a conjugacy class of  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$  have the same subcycle type, it is enough to determine the subcycle type for matrices of the form (2) with monic, irreducible polynomials  $\varphi_i(x) \in F_q[x]$ . As in the case of the computation of the cycle index of  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$ , we first want to determine the subcycle type of a hypercompanion matrix  $H(\varphi^j)$ , and then we have to define a product with which the subcycle type of the direct product action of two hypercompanion matrices can be computed. In [10] Hirschfeld gave the following definition for the *subexponent* of a polynomial  $\varphi(x) \in F_q[x]$ ,  $\varphi(0) \neq 0$ :

$$\text{subexp}(\varphi) := \min\{t \in \mathbb{N} \mid \exists \alpha_0 \in F_q^* \text{ such that } \varphi(x) \mid x^t - \alpha_0\}.$$

The element  $\alpha_0 \in F_q^*$  is called the integral element of  $\varphi$ . Let  $\varphi(x) \in F_q[x] \setminus \{x\}$  be a monic, irreducible polynomial of degree  $d$ . If  $\varphi(x)$  can be expressed as  $\varphi(x) = \prod_{i=1}^d (x - \alpha_i)$ , where the  $\alpha_i$  are distinct elements in  $F_{q^d}$ , then

$$\text{subexp}(\varphi) = \min\{t \in \mathbb{N} \mid \alpha_i^t \in F_q^*\}.$$

The subexponent of  $\varphi(x)$  is a divisor of  $(q^d - 1)/(q - 1)$ . The subexponent of the power  $\varphi(x)^k$  for an integer  $k \geq 1$  is given by  $\text{subexp}(\varphi) p^t$ , where  $p$  is

the characteristic of  $F_q$  and  $t := \min\{r \in \mathbb{N}_0 \mid p^r \geq k\}$ . The subexponent of  $\varphi(x)$  is a divisor of the exponent of  $\varphi(x)$ , and in fact

$$h := \frac{\exp(\varphi)}{\text{subexp}(\varphi)}$$

is a divisor of  $q - 1$ . Furthermore,  $h$  is the multiplicative order of the integral element of  $\varphi(x)$  in  $F_q^*$ , and  $h = \gcd(q - 1, \exp(\varphi))$ . So the subexponent can be derived from the exponent by

$$\text{subexp}(\varphi) = \frac{\exp(\varphi)}{\gcd(q - 1, \exp(\varphi))}.$$

For  $e \in E(d, q)$  let  $h := \gcd(q - 1, e)$ ; then for each  $\alpha \in F_q^*$  with multiplicative order  $h$  there are  $\phi(e)/(d\phi(h))$  monic irreducible polynomials  $\varphi(x) \in F_q[x]$  of degree  $d$  with exponent  $e$  subexponent  $e/h$  and integral element  $\alpha$  where  $\phi$  is the Euler  $\phi$ -function. The number of monic, irreducible polynomials of degree  $d$  and subexponent  $f$  in  $F_q[x]$  is given by

$$\sum_e \frac{\phi(e)}{d},$$

where we have to sum over all  $e \in E(d, q)$  which fulfil  $e/\gcd(e, q - 1) = f$ . In the case  $q = 2$  the subexponent and the exponent of a monic, irreducible polynomial are the same. Let  $A$  be the hypercompanion matrix  $H(\varphi^k)$  of a monic, irreducible polynomial  $\varphi(x) \neq x$  of degree  $d$  of subexponent  $f$  with integral element  $\alpha$ . Then the subcycle type of  $A$  acting on  $F_q^{kd} \setminus \{0\}$  is

$$\prod_{i=1}^k x_{f_i, \alpha^{f_i}}^{(q^{id} - q^{(i-1)d})/f_i},$$

where  $f_i = \text{subexp}(\varphi^i)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .

Finally, we have to define a product formula for the direct product of two subcycle types, which is similar to the direct product formula (4). Let  $A_1$  be in  $\text{GL}(n_1, F_q)$  and let  $A_2$  be in  $\text{GL}(n_2, F_q)$ ; then  $\text{diag}(A_1, A_2)$  is in  $\text{GL}(n_1 + n_2, F_q)$ . Furthermore  $F_q^{n_1+n_2} \setminus \{0\}$  can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} F_q^{n_1+n_2} \setminus \{0\} &= (F_q^{n_1} \setminus \{0\}) \times \{0\}^{n_2} \dot{\cup} \{0\}^{n_1} \\ &\quad \times (F_q^{n_2} \setminus \{0\}) \dot{\cup} (F_q^{n_1} \setminus \{0\}) \times (F_q^{n_2} \setminus \{0\}). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $F_q^*$  is a cyclic group, each element  $\alpha \in F_q^*$  can be expressed as  $\alpha = \beta^r$ , where  $\beta$  is a generator of  $F_q^*$  and  $0 \leq r < q - 1$ . With the multiplicative and linear extension of the following multiplication defined by

$$x_{i_1, \beta^{r_1}}^{j_1} \otimes x_{i_2, \beta^{r_2}}^{j_2} := x_{i_1, \beta^{r_1}}^{j_1} x_{i_2, \beta^{r_2}}^{j_2} x_{i_3, \beta^{r_3}}^{j_3},$$

where

$$i_3 = \text{lcm}(i_1, i_2) \frac{q - 1}{\text{gcd}(q - 1, \text{lcm}(i_1, i_2) r_1/i_1 - \text{lcm}(i_1, i_2) r_2/i_2)},$$

$$r_3 \equiv \frac{r_1 i_3}{i_1} \equiv \frac{r_2 i_3}{i_2} \pmod{q - 1},$$

and

$$j_3 = \frac{i_1 j_1 i_2 j_2}{i_3},$$

the subcycle type of  $\text{diag}(A_1, A_2)$  can be computed as the  $\otimes$ -product of the subcycle types of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ .

To see this, suppose  $v \in F_q^{n_1} \setminus \{0\}$  lies in a subcycle of  $A_1$  of length  $i_1$  with integral element  $\beta^{r_1}$ ; then  $(v, 0)$  lies in a subcycle of  $\text{diag}(A_1, A_2)$  of length  $i_1$  with integral element  $\beta^{r_1}$  as well. In the same way the subcycles of  $(0, y)$  of  $\text{diag}(A_1, A_2)$  for  $y \in F_q^{n_2} \setminus \{0\}$  correspond with the subcycles of  $y$  of  $A_2$ . For the rest of the proof it is enough to investigate pairs  $(v, y)$  such that  $v \neq 0$  and  $y \neq 0$ . If  $v$  lies in a subcycle of  $A_1$  of length  $i_1$  with integral element  $\beta^{r_1}$  and  $y$  in a subcycle of  $A_2$  of length  $i_2$  with integral element  $\beta^{r_2}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{lcm}(i_1, i_2) &= \min\{t \in \mathbb{N} \mid \exists \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in F_q^* : \text{diag}(A_1^t, A_2^t)(v, y) \\ &= (\alpha_1 v, \alpha_2 y)\}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\alpha_l = (\beta^{r_l})^{\text{lcm}(i_1, i_2)/i_l} = \beta^{r_l \text{lcm}(i_1, i_2)/i_l}.$$



In the next step both

$$i_3 = \min\{t \in \mathbb{N} \mid \exists \alpha \in F_q^* : \text{diag}(A_1^t, A_2^t)(v, y) = \alpha(v, y)\}$$

and the integral element  $\alpha$  must be computed. So we have to find the least positive integer  $t$  such that  $\alpha_1^t = \alpha_2^t$ . This however is the same as the multiplicative order of  $\alpha_1 \alpha_2^{-1}$ , which can be computed as

$$\text{ord}(\alpha_1 \alpha_2^{-1}) = \frac{\text{ord}(\beta)}{\gcd(\text{ord}(\beta), r_1 \text{lcm}(i_1, i_2)/i_1 - r_2 \text{lcm}(i_1, i_2)/i_2)}.$$

Then  $i_3 = \text{lcm}(i_1, i_2) \text{ord}(\alpha_1 \alpha_2^{-1})$  and

$$\beta^{r_3} = \alpha_l^{\text{ord}(\alpha_1 \alpha_2^{-1})} = \beta^{r_l \text{lcm}(i_1, i_2) \text{ord}(\alpha_1 \alpha_2^{-1})/i_l} = \beta^{r_l i_3/i_l}.$$

Since there are  $i_l j_l$  elements in subcycles of length  $i_l$  with integral element  $\beta^{r_l}$  for  $l = 1, 2$ , there are  $i_1 j_1 i_2 j_2$  elements in subcycles of  $\text{diag}(A_1, A_2)$  of length  $i_3$  with integral element  $\beta^{r_3}$ , and the exponent of  $x_{i_3, \beta^{r_3}}$  is given by  $i_1 j_1 i_2 j_2 / i_3$ . This finishes the proof.

**THEOREM 4.** *The subcycle index of  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$  acting on  $F_q^n \setminus \{0\}$  can be computed as*

$$\frac{1}{[q]_n} \sum_{\gamma} \sum_{\lambda} \frac{[q]_n}{\prod_{i=1}^{t_n} b(d_i, \lambda^{(i)})} \bigotimes_{i=1}^{t_n} \bigotimes_{j=1}^{r_i} \left( \prod_{k=1}^j x_{f_{ik}, \alpha_{ik}}^{a_{ik}} \right)^{\otimes \lambda_j^{(i)}},$$

where  $f_{ik}$  is the subexponent of  $\varphi_i(x)^k$ . The integral element of  $\varphi_i(x)$  will be denoted by  $\alpha_i$ , and  $\alpha_{ik}$  is the integral element of  $\varphi_i(x)^k$  computed as

$$\alpha_{ik} = \alpha_i^{f_{ik}/f_{i1}}.$$

Furthermore,  $a_{ik}$  is given as

$$a_{ik} = \frac{q^{k d_i} - q^{(k-1) d_i}}{f_{ik}}.$$

$[q]_n$  is the order of  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$ , and  $b(d_i, \lambda^{(i)})$  is the size of the centralizer of  $D(\varphi_i, \lambda^{(i)})$  computed by (3). The first sum runs over all  $\gamma = (\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{t_n})$

which are solutions of (5). The second sum runs over all  $t_n$ -tuples  $\lambda = (\lambda^{(1)}, \dots, \lambda^{(t_n)}) \in \times_{i=1}^{t_n} \text{CT}(\gamma_i)$ . Omitting the second index of all variables and dividing the exponents by  $q - 1$ , the cycle index of  $\text{PGL}(n, F_q)$  acting on  $\text{PG}(n - 1, F_q)$  can be computed.

For the actual computation of the subcycle index of  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$  we want to determine all pairs  $(f, \alpha)$  of subexponents  $f$  and integral elements  $\alpha$  of monic, irreducible polynomials  $\varphi(x) \in F_q[x]$  of degree  $d$ . The set of these pairs can be described as

$$S(d, q) := \bigcup_{e \in E(d, q)} \left\{ (f, \alpha) \mid f = \frac{e}{\gcd(e, q - 1)}, \text{ord}(\alpha) = \gcd(e, q - 1) \right\}.$$

For  $(f, \alpha) \in S(d, q)$  the number of monic, irreducible polynomials in  $F_q[x]$  of degree  $d$ , with subexponent  $f$  and integral element  $\alpha$  is

$$\mu(d, f, \alpha) := \frac{\nu(d, f \text{ord}(\alpha))}{\phi(\text{ord}(\alpha))}.$$

Now the following formula yields the subcycle index of  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$  acting on  $F_q^n \setminus \{0\}$ :

$$\sum_{c \vdash n} \bigotimes_{d=1}^n \left( \sum_r \bigotimes_{(f, \alpha) \in S(d, q)} \left( \sum_s \xi(\mu(d, f, \alpha), s) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. \bigotimes_{j=1}^{\mu(d, f, \alpha)} \left( \sum_{\lambda \vdash s_j} \frac{1}{b(d, \lambda)} z(d, f, \alpha, \lambda) \right) \right) \right),$$

where  $z(d, f, \alpha, \lambda)$  is the subcycle type of a matrix  $D(\varphi, \lambda)$ , with  $\varphi(x)$  a monic, irreducible polynomial of degree  $d$  subexponent  $f$  and integral element  $\alpha$ . It can be computed as

$$\bigotimes_{l=1}^{s_j} \left( \prod_{k=1}^l x_{f_k, \alpha_k}^{a_k} \right)^{\otimes \lambda_l},$$

where  $f_k = fp^t$ ,  $p$  is the characteristic of  $F_q$ ,  $t$  is the least nonnegative integer such that  $p^t \geq k$ , the integral element  $\alpha_k$  is computed as  $\alpha^{f_k/f}$ , and  $a_k$  is given by

$$a_k = \frac{q^{kd} - q^{(k-1)d}}{f_k}.$$

The numbers  $c_d$  of  $c = (c_1, \dots, c_n) \vdash n$  can be interpreted as the sum of the multiplicities of all irreducible factors of degree  $d$  of the characteristic polynomial of a linear mapping. The second sum runs over all functions  $r$  from  $S(d, q)$  to  $\mathbb{N}_0$  which satisfy  $\sum_{(f, \alpha) \in S(d, q)} r(f, \alpha) = c_d$ . Then the sum of the multiplicities of all irreducible factors of degree  $d$ , subexponent  $f$ , and integral element  $\alpha$  is given by  $r(f, \alpha)$ . The third sum must be taken over all cycle types  $s \vdash r(f, \alpha)$  which satisfy  $\sum_j s_j \leq \mu(d, f, \alpha)$ . Such a cycle type  $s$  defines types of partitions of the set  $\{1, \dots, r(f, \alpha)\}$  into at most  $\mu(d, f, \alpha)$  parts. The number of all combinations of  $\mu(d, f, \alpha)$  different polynomials (of subexponent  $f$ , integral element  $\alpha$  and of degree  $d$ ) forming a product of degree  $r(f, \alpha)d$ , where exactly  $s_i$  polynomials occur with multiplicity  $i$ , can be computed as the multinomial coefficient

$$\xi(\mu(d, f, \alpha), s) := \binom{\mu(d, f, \alpha)}{s_1, s_2, \dots, \mu(d, f, \alpha) - \sum_j s_j}.$$

## 6. APPLICATIONS

In this section the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  will be abbreviated by  $\underline{n}$ . Using this notation, the *symmetric group* of  $\underline{n}$  will be indicated as  $S_{\underline{n}}$ . When we want to replace the indeterminate  $x_i$  in the cycle index  $Z(G, X)$  by an expression  $f(i)$ , we will write  $Z(G, X \mid x_i = f(i))$ .

When generalizing Slepian's method [16] for counting isometry classes of linear  $(n, k)$  codes over  $F_q$  from  $q = 2$  to arbitrary  $q$ , the author [5] realized that the number of orbits under the following group action must be computed:

$$(S_{\underline{n}} \times \text{GL}(k, F_q)) \times (F_q^* \setminus (F_q^k \setminus \{0\}))^{\underline{n}} \rightarrow (F_q^* \setminus (F_q^k \setminus \{0\}))^{\underline{n}},$$

$$((\pi, A), \bar{\Gamma}) \mapsto A(\bar{\Gamma} \circ \pi^{-1}).$$

This is just the group action of  $S_{\underline{n}} \times \text{PGL}(k, F_q)$  acting on the set of all functions from  $\underline{n}$  to  $\text{PG}(k-1, F_q)$ . According to [1], a generating function for these numbers (we call them  $T_{nkq}$ ) can be derived as

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} T_{nkq} x^n &= Z \left( \text{PGL}(k, F_q), \text{PG}(k-1, F_q) \middle| x_i = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} x^{ij} \right) \\ &= Z \left( \text{PGL}(k, F_q), \text{PG}(k-1, F_q) \middle| x_i = \frac{1}{1-x^i} \right). \end{aligned}$$

When enumerating liner codes over  $F_q$  for  $q \neq 2$  we have to compute the cycle index for the action of a projective group. Then the number of isometry classes of linear  $(n, k)$  codes over  $F_q$  with no columns of zeros is given by  $T_{nkq} - T_{n, k-1, q}$ . When counting only orbits of injective functions, the number of classes of so-called “injective” linear  $(n, k)$  codes (i.e. codes without any proportional columns) with no columns of zeros can be computed.

For example, Tables 1 and 2, giving the numbers of classes of linear  $(n, k)$  codes and of injective linear  $(n, k)$  codes for  $q = 5$ , were computed with SYMMETRICA [17]. Extending these tables in  $n$  is no problem, but, as is indicated in Table 3, both the computing time and the usage of memory are growing rapidly when  $k$  becomes larger. [In Table 3 you can find the time used for computing the cycle indices of  $\text{GL}(k, F_q)$ ,  $\text{Aff}(k, F_q)$ , and  $\text{PGL}(k, F_q)$  evaluated with the SYMMETRICA routine `print-time( )` on an HP-UX 9.0 workstation. The corresponding SYMMETRICA routines are `zykelind-glq`, `zykelind-affkq`, and `zykelind-pglkq`.]

For  $q = 2, 3$  these cycle index methods can be applied for the computation of the numbers of isomorphism-classes of  $q$ -ary matroids as well. Wild [18, 19] applied the Cauchy-Frobenius lemma for enumerating classes of binary and ternary matroids. For enumerating matroids the cycle index of  $\text{GL}(n, F_q)$  acting on  $F_q^* \setminus F_q^n$  must be known, which is

$$x_1 \cdot Z(\text{PGL}(n, F_q), \text{PG}(n-1, F_q)).$$

The numbers of  $n$ -element matroids of rank  $k$  can be interpreted as numbers of classes of linear  $(n, k)$  codes, where columns of zeros are allowed. The numbers of loopless matroids correspond to the numbers of classes of codes with no columns of zeros, and the simple matroids correspond to classes of injective codes. For  $q = 2$  tables of these numbers can be found in [16] and in [13]. For  $q = 2, 3$  the numbers of matroids can be found in [18]. In [5] the authors give numbers of classes of indecomposable codes

TABLE 1  
NUMBER OF ISOMETRY CLASSES OF LINEAR  $(n, k)$  CODES OVER  $F_5$ , WHERE COLUMNS OF ZEROS ARE NOT ALLOWED

$nk$		Number of classes					
$n$	$k$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
3	1	2	1	1	0	0	0
4	1	4	3	3	1	0	0
5	1	6	9	9	4	1	0
6	1	11	28	28	19	5	1
7	1	14	81	81	98	32	6
8	1	22	253	253	774	337	53
9	1	30	851	851	8595	9116	1166
10	1	43	2883	2883	118566	493440	126831
11	1	56	9760	9760	1678533	32284551	32659425
12	1	79	32359	32359	22865614	2081311042	9903862799
13	1	100	103564	103564	293232423	126195756981	2933556753888
14	1	134	319235	319235	3529984582	7145719133836	817792688298269
15	1	170	946611	946611	39964715420	378561532692888	213504876729763324
16	1	230	2701708	2701708	426952413242	18831255937967044	52309680228011475650
17	1	273	7435209	7435209	4319069402516	882825589984276846	12067473900919649779357
18	1	348	19769246	19769246	41508414582734	39138258211050467183	2630003988084389247724482
19	1	424	50885804	50885804	380119696621896	1645862734742940014521	543163334129150960709567991

TABLE 2  
NUMBER OF ISOMETRY CLASSES OF INJECTIVE LINEAR  $(n, k)$  CODES OVER  $F_5$ , WHERE COLUMNS OF ZEROS ARE NOT ALLOWED

$nk$	Number of classes					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	1	0	0	0	0
3	0	1	1	0	0	0
4	0	1	2	1	0	0
5	0	1	4	3	1	0
6	0	1	11	12	4	1
7	0	0	22	58	23	5
8	0	0	42	460	255	42
9	0	0	92	5001	7659	1019
10	0	0	174	64508	428928	120463
11	0	0	296	818669	27 835871	31 538685
12	0	0	476	9 757050	1753 691821	9557 206823
13	0	0	669	107 557544	103274 780465	2 817242 794112
14	0	0	832	1096 838553	5 659059 348470	780 447912 679009
15	0	0	948	10377 098235	289 285392 795863	202321 035985 581414
16	0	0	948	91427 918120	13848 548789 245809	49 191770 712964 929451
17	0	0	832	752869 839421	623173 264672 168315	11255 693730 501677 363863
18	0	0	669	5 813629 740101	26 450117 442738 201150	2 431828 164135 538350 110169
19	0	0	476	42 224711 823579	1062 179716 246420 445710	497 627566 565645 258069 997134

TABLE 3  
COMPUTING TIME FOR SOME CYCLE INDICES

$q$	$k$	Time (sec)			$q$	$k$	Time (sec)		
		$\text{GH}(k, F_q)$	$\text{Aff}(k, F_q)$	$\text{PGL}(k, F_q)$			$\text{GL}(k, F_q)$	$\text{Aff}(k, F_q)$	$\text{PGL}(k, F_q)$
2	9	0.75	1.34		4	5	0.56	0.63	1.73
	10	1.57	2.46			6	1.98	2.22	9.01
	11	2.78	4.43			7	10.06	11.33	65.72
	12	5.22	8.88			8	36.32	39.46	420.01
	13	11.35	18.68			9	232.76	274.63	2984.37
	14	23.37	33.87		5	2	0.04	0.05	0.05
	15	41.40	57.83			3	0.12	0.15	0.24
	16	68.32	107.18			4	0.53	0.62	1.64
3	17	167.95	262.13			5	1.73	2.02	15.83
	5	0.32	0.39	0.35	6	6	9.48	10.76	167.94
	6	0.72	0.98	1.08	9	2	0.08	0.09	0.19
	7	1.47	2.60	3.55		3	0.36	0.44	2.72
	8	5.77	7.27	12.73		4	3.34	3.36	96.77
	9	17.24	21.1	45.81		5	33.76	35.38	3647.17
	10	46.28	57.20	166.04		6	758.30	757.99	
	11	168.20	198.99	672.75					
	12	623.42	734.34	2971.00					

for  $q = 2, 3, 4, 5, 7$ , from which the numbers of all classes of codes can be computed. Some further tables for  $q = 3, 4$  can be found in [4]. In [3] tables for  $q = 8$  are given, and some details about enumeration of isometry classes of linear  $(n, k)$  codes in SYMMETRICA using the cycle indices of projective linear groups can be found.

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